WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A fiber mat for use in a building material, said mat comprising:

a plurality of fibers;

a resinous fiber binder, said fibers fixedly distributed in said binder; and

a urethane modifier comprising from about 0.1 wt.% to about 50 wt.%, based on the weight of said binder.

2. The fiber mat of Claim 1, wherein said urethane modifier comprises a polyurethane modifier.

3. The fiber mat of Claim 2, wherein said polyurethane modifier is selected from the group consisting of: an aliphatic polyurethane, an aromatic polyurethane, and a hybrid polyurethane.

4. The fiber mat of Claim 1, wherein said fiber binder comprises a formaldehyde type binder.

5. The fiber mat of Claim 4, wherein said formaldehyde type binder is selected from the group consisting of: a urea/formaldehyde binder, a phenol/formaldehyde binder, and a melamine/formaldehyde binder.

6. The fiber mat of Claim 1, wherein the weight ratio of said fiber binder to said urethane modifier is in the range of from about 200:1 to about 4:1.

7. The fiber mat of Claim 1, said mat containing from about 55 wt.% to about 98 wt.% fiber and from about 0.05 wt.% to about 45 wt.% fiber binder.

8. The fiber mat of Claim 1, wherein said fibers comprise glass fibers.

9. The fiber mat of Claim 1, said mat containing from about 55 wt.% to about 98 wt.% glass fiber and from about 15 wt.% to about 30 wt.% fiber binder.

10. The fiber mat of Claim 1, further comprising an asphalt coating on at least one surface of said mat, said mat having a tensile strength greater than about 1,000 psi.

11. A fibrous mat roofing shingle, comprising:

a plurality of glass fibers; and

a fixative composition comprising a fiber binder and between about 0.1 wt.% and about 50 wt.%, based on the weight of said binder, of a polyurethane modifier,

wherein said fibers are fixedly distributed in said fixative composition.

12. The fibrous mat of Claim 11, wherein the concentration of the fiber binder, based on the weight of the fibrous mat, is in the range of from about 0.05 wt.% and about 45 wt.%.

13. The fibrous mat of Claim 11, wherein said glass fibers comprise a plurality of glass filaments having an average length of from about ¼ to about 3 inches and a diameter of from about 1 to about 50 microns.

14. The fibrous mat of Claim 11, wherein the concentration of said glass filaments is between about 55 and about 98 wt.%.

15. The fibrous mat of Claim 11, wherein said polyurethane modifier is selected from the group consisting of: an aliphatic polyurethane, an aromatic polyurethane, and a hybrid polyurethane.

16. A process of making a fiber mat for use in a building material, said process comprising the steps of:

(a) forming an aqueous fiber slurry;

(b) removing water from the fiber slurry to form a wet fiber mat ;

(c) saturating the wet fiber mat with an aqueous solution of a fiber binder and a polyurethane modifier; and

(d) drying and curing the wet fiber mat to form a fiber mat product.

17. The process of Claim 16, wherein the weight ratio of the fiber binder to the polyurethane modifier is in the range of from about 200:1 to about 4:1.

18. The process of Claim 16, wherein the modifier of step (c) is combined in water with the fiber binder of step (c) to form the aqueous solution.

19. The process of Claim 16, further comprising the step of:

(e) coating at least one surface of the fiber mat product with a layer of roofing asphalt,

wherein the fiber mat product has a tensile strength greater than about 1,000 psi.

20. The process of Claim 16, wherein the aqueous fiber slurry further comprises a fiber dispersing agent.